

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 071059Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6927

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33176

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK DATED
DEC 7 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

SONGKHLA 278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PBOR, TH, MY

SUBJECT: BPP AMBUSHED DURING TRAINING EXERCISE

SUMMARY: BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) PATROL ON TRAINING MISSION
DEC 6 IN SADAU DISTRICT, SONGKHLA WAS AMBUSHED BY COMMUNIST PARTY
OF MALAYA (CPM) INSURGENTS. ONE BPP TROOPER WAS KILLED AND FIVE
WOUNDED. SIGNIFICANTLY, AMBUSH COMES AT TIME WHEN RTG REPORTEDLY
CONSIDERING REINTRODUCTION OF MALAYSIANS INTO BORDER AREA TO COMBAT
CPM. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING BPP REGION 4 COMMANDER, SPECIAL TRAINING CONDUCTED
DEC 6 WAS PART OF PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN NEW SQUADRON LEADERS A
NUMBER OF WHOM HAVE BEEN LOST IN RECENT CLASHES WITH INSURGENTS.
DURING EXERCISE IN SADAU, ONE BPP WAS KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED.
(BPP LIKE THE RTA SOMETIMES USE TRAINING FUNDS TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS
IN INSURGENT AREAS. REASON IS THAT PER DIEM AUTHORIZED FOR TRAINEES
CUTS DOWN ON EXPENSES OF THE OPERATION. THUS CONTACT WITH CPM NOT
WHOLLY UNEXPECTED.)

2. FACT THAT AMBUSH CAME AT TIME WHEN RTG REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING
REINTRODUCTION OF MALAYSIANS INTO BORDER AREA COULD BE SIGNIFICANT.
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CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED HEALING OF THAI-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS CAPPED

BY MEETING OF PRIME MINISTERS IN PENANG NOV 29 MAY WELL POINT THE WAY TOWARD STATIONING OF MALAYSIANS IN BETONG AGAIN. (ACCORDING TO MALAYSIAN VICE CONSUL HERE, THAI PUSHED VERY HARD FOR MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS WHICH THEY ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TAKE PLACE IN HAT YAI NOV 27. PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN WHO WAS IN JOHORE STATE AT THAT TIME WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE HIS SCHEDULE AND THUS THAI ACCEPTED NOV 29 DATE IN PENANG.)

3. BANGKOK POST DEC 6 INDICATES QUESTION OF MALAYSIAN TROOPS IN THAILAND TO BE WORKED OUT BY 4TH ARMY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN PIN THAMMASRI. GEN PIN INDICATED TWO MONTHS AGO (SONGKHLA 238) THAT HE FAVORED REINTRODUCTION OF MALAYSIANS.

4. ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THAI-MALAYSIAN AGREEMENT MAY BE EXAGGERATED, THAI MAY EVENTUALLY DECIDE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE MALAYSIANS RUN INTERFERENCE FOR THEM IN EFFORT AGAINST CPM IN BORDER AREA. IF SO THIS REPRESENTS CLASSIC THAI APPROACH TO BORDER PROBLEM. THEY WILL HAVE SET UP A SITUATION IN WHICH THEIR WILLINGNES
S
TO ALLOW MALAYSIANS TO OCCUPY POSITIONS THEY HAD JUST SEVEN MONTHS AGO IS PORTRAYED AS A MAJOR EFFORT IN COUNTERINSURGENCY.

HAMILTON
UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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